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NAVY NEWS

Vol. 016/97

April 18, 1997



The U.S. Navy's newest Arleigh Burke class destroyer USS Sullivan (DDG 68) arrives in New York Harbor for commissioning ceremonies scheduled for Saturday, April 19, 1997. The Sullivan is named after five brothers killed in action while assigned to the cruiser USS Juneau, during the invasion of Guadalcanal. The brothers had petitioned the Department of the Navy to station all five brothers on board the same ship, after a close personal friend was killed during the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor. (U.S. Navy Photo by Photographer's Mate Patrick J. Cashin)

CNO Praises Sailors

WASHINGTON (NWSA) — Chief of Naval Operations ADM Jay L. Johnson testified before the Senate Appropriations Defense Subcommittee April 9 on important Navy issues including health care and the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet Program.

ADM Johnson opened with a statement praising Sailors.

"In the eight months I've served as CNO, I've spent a lot of time out around the world, with the fleet," he said. "I have found them to be very operationally focused. They're also very much upholding their reputation as the world's premier maritime fighting force."

ADM Johnson answered Senators' questions about their concerns with the TRICARE Program.

"The TRICARE system will be a good system once we get it fully implemented," he said. Johnson told the Senators that one challenge is to ensure that military people are properly educated on the new program.

"In fact," he said, "I met with the Surgeon General [of the Navy] on that very subject, to try to articulate what it means, what the options are and how it relates to Sailors and their families," he said. "We're very much committed to doing that."

Admiral Johnson also answered several questions about the F/A-18E/F Super Hornet. He emphasized its importance in maintaining our Navy's air superiority in the future.

"It's a bigger airplane with a smaller radar cross-section," he said. "It brings us great combat enhancement in terms of radius of action ... it has countermeasures that will keep it more than equal to the threat for the next two decades. Operationally, it's our answer."

Navy needs Foreign Area Officers

by BUPERS Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NNS) — Eligible officers interested in applying for the Navy's Foreign Area Officer (FAO) program must submit their applications by May 19 for the July board.

The Navy FAO program is intended to create a select group of regional politico-military specialists to answer the growing need for regional expertise as the nation's national security focuses on the principles of global engagement and forward presence. The program is open to O-3 through O-6 officers from any unrestricted line, restricted line or staff community.

The selection process will consider the individual's overall professional performance, politico-military and area studies education, foreign language proficiency for aptitude and regional experience. Officers without the requisite

skills, however, may also apply and will receive training as their career development permits.

As envisioned, according to NAVADMIN 58/97, FAOs will be assigned tours in both FAO and officer designator community billets as determined by career progression, FAO qualification level, personal preference, and the needs of the Navy.

NAVADMIN 58/97 outlines the application format. Applicants must submit the request via their commanding officer to Chief of Naval Personnel (PERS-442C) with a copy to the cognizant detailer.

Further information on the FAO program will be provided through future NAVADMINs and Perspective magazine.

Status of the Navy



Personnel: 399,290 active duty;
232,208 Ready Reserves;
96,348 SELRES;
135,860 IRR;
213,048 civilians
Aircraft: 4,754
Ships: 351
Underway: 159 ships (45%)
Deployed: 109 ships (31%)
Personnel Deployed: 55,104

Exercises: 7

Port Visits: 15

SSNs at Sea: 31 (42%)

Carriers/Air Wings at Sea:

USS *Constellation*/CVW-: transit,
mid Pacific

USS *Theodore Roosevelt*/CVW-3:
local ops, Arabian Gulf

USS *Independence*: port visit, Perth
Australia

USS *Nimitz*: carrier quals, eastern
Pacific

USS *Dwight D. Eisenhower*: local
ops, western Atlantic

USS *John C. Stennis*: local ops,
western Atlantic

LHAs/LHDs/LPHs at Sea:

USS *Boxer*: transit, western Pacific

USS *Nassau*/26th MEU: local ops,
Gulf of Guinea

USS *New Orleans*: transit, Yellow
Sea

USS *Inchon*: transit, Irish Sea

Ships Assigned to Middle East

Force: USS *Nicholson*, USS
Halyburton, USS *Paul Hamilton*,
USS *Leftwich*, USS *Fletcher*, USS
Ardent, USS *Dextrous*

Other Exercises/Operations:

Operation Southern Watch,

Operation Guardian Retrieval

Operation Silver Wake

Counter-Drug Operations

Maritime Interception Operations

Exercise Blue Harrier 97

Exercise Khunjar Haad

Summary of NAVADMINs

NAVADMIN 084/97

(DTG 101323Z APR 97)

Annual NAACP convention.

NAVADMIN 083/97

(DTG 092306Z APR 97)

Child Abuse Prevention Month --
April 97.



NavNews

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Editor

JO2 Jeremy E. Allen

Production Manager

JOCS(AW) Gwyneth J. Shultz

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Notable Quotable

"Our naval presence in the Pacific plays a stabilizing role. When China's military exercise caused tensions in the Strait early last year, our deployment of two aircraft carriers helped lower the risk of miscalculation." Secretary of State Madeline K. Albright in a speech to midshipmen

— Secretary of State Madeline K. Albright in a speech to midshipman at the Naval Academy.



GW, Vinson earn Battle "E"

Vinson top Pac carrier

by JO2 J.P. Baldwin, USS Carl Vinson Public Affairs

BREMERTON, Wash. (NWSA) — USS *Carl Vinson* (CVN 70) earned the COMNAVAIRPAC Battle Efficiency Award for Pacific-based carriers during 1996.

"We have a lot of great Sailors in our Navy, a lot of great organizations, a lot of great crews and ships," said Commander, Naval Air Forces Pacific, VADM Brent M. Bennitt. "Very, very few of them rise to the top of the pack ever in their career the way that this team did last year. I would be very surprised if any ship in the Navy, certainly any carrier, had a more magnificent year.

"I think the proudest statistic for this team was the fact that you conducted nearly 14,000 carrier arrested landings with the same number of launches, and it was done safely, during the most demanding time of the year in the most demanding place in the world in which to operate," Bennitt said, referring to the ship's deployment to the Arabian Gulf last summer, where temperatures routinely exceeded 110 degrees Fahrenheit.

Carl Vinson is currently in the shipyard at Bremerton, Wash.

GW best in Atlantic

by JOSN Pete Robertson, USS *George Washington* Public Affairs

NORFOLK (NWSA) — USS *George Washington* (CVN 73) earned COMNAVAIRLANT's aircraft carrier Battle Efficiency Award for 1996.

"What this award establishes is what we have known all along, that *George Washington* is the best carrier in the Atlantic Fleet," said CAPT Malcolm P. Branch, the carrier's commanding officer.

The carrier also claimed eleven out of twelve departmental efficiency award categories.

The Battle "E" award, Command Master Chief ETCM(SW) Kevin Lavin pointed out, "is a tremendous goal to strive for, a tremendous goal achieved, and something the crew of *George Washington* should be tremendously proud of." He told Sailors to use this award as a launching pad to get another one for next year's cycle.

George Washington is now in competition for the Battenburg Cup Award, presented to the Atlantic Fleet Battle "E" winner with the greatest accumulation of crew achievements.

USS Kearsarge deploys early

WASHINGTON (NWSA) — The Secretary of Defense ordered USS *Kearsarge* (LHD 3) and elements of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit to begin their six-month deployment April 15, about two weeks early.

Originally scheduled to depart April 29, the Norfolk-based amphibious assault ship will relieve USS *Nassau* (LHA 4) off west Africa to ensure the continuous presence of forces capable of con-

ducting non-combatant evacuation operations in Zaire, if needed, and to ensure the timely return of *Nassau* to its home port.

"Our Sailors and Marines in the USS *Kearsarge* Amphibious Ready Group are ready to meet the challenge. The outstanding training they received over the last few months has prepared them for any contingency," said ADM Jay L. Johnson, Chief of Naval Operations.

"Their ability to get underway on short notice to relieve USS *Nassau* and provide a continuous presence off the coast of Zaire is a shining example of the flexibility and mobility of our Navy and Marine Corps team."

Other units associated with the *Kearsarge* Amphibious Ready Group and the remaining elements of the 22nd Marine Expeditionary Unit will deploy April 29.

USS Nassau on station

by JO1 Brian Roscoe USS *Nassau* Public Affairs

COAST OF CONGO and ZAIRE (NWSA) — USS *Nassau* (LHA 4) recently arrived on station off the coast of Congo and Zaire to evacuate American citizens, if necessary.

The Norfolk-based amphibious assault ship and embarked 26th Marine Expeditionary Unit conducted non-combatant evacuation operations in Tirana, Albania, a few weeks ago.

"(This) is something we have trained for and have done before, so we are

ready," said Chief Operations Specialist (SW) Terry Braxton.

Fire Controlman 2nd Class Dean Humphrey said he is proud to be part of *Nassau's* operations in Albania and Zaire. "We trained for 18 months to be able to handle something like this and it is a great feeling to see that training pay off for the United States."

Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Anthony Hickman agrees, "It makes me feel good to know that we can get in there and help out our fellow Americans."



Ingleside named 1997 top installation

WASHINGTON (NWSA) — Naval Station Ingleside, Texas, is the 1997 Navy winner of the Commander-in-Chief's Installation Excellence Award.

The station is commanded by CAPT Donald E. Peters, and will be honored at a Pentagon ceremony May 2. Ingleside was chosen from a field of 11 competitors, each the winner in their own claimancy.

Those winner/nominees are:

Commander-in-Chief, Atlantic Fleet — NAVSTA Ingleside, Texas;

Commander-in-Chief, Pacific Fleet — NAS North Island, Calif.;

Commander-in-Chief, U.S. Naval Forces Europe — NAS Sigonella, Sicily; Chief of Naval Education and Training — NAS Whiting, Field, Fla.;

Commander, Naval Facilities Engineering Command — CBC Port Hueneme, Calif.;

Commander, Naval Sea Systems Command — NSWC Crane, Ind.;

(INCUMBENT) Puget Sound Naval Shipyard, Wash.;

Commander, Naval Supply Systems Command — NAVICP Mechanicsburg, Pa.;

Commander, Naval Reserve Force — NAS JRB Willow Grove, Pa.;

Commander, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Command — NCTS Cutler, Maine; and

Commander, Naval Security Group Command — NSGA Northwest (Chesapeake, Va.)

Each will receive a certificate of recognition from the Secretary of Defense

Commissaries increase lead as top benefit

courtesy of Defense Commissary Agency

FORT LEE, Va. (NWSA) — Military shoppers have placed the commissaries at the top of their list for the second consecutive year. Consumers ranked commissaries as the most important benefit in the 1996 Customer Service Evaluation System (CSES) survey of store shoppers worldwide.

"In fact," said Bill Reade, chief of analysis and evaluation for the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA), "the percentage of people who named the com-

missary as their number one benefit increased from 48 percent in 1995 to 54 percent in 1996."

Medical benefits followed next, rated as number one by 38 percent which is down from 44 percent in 1995. Exchanges, MWR activities, dental, education and libraries were rated low as top benefits. Previous surveys have always ranked medical as the number one benefit.

The DeCA CSES survey was administered Sept. 23 - Oct. 4, 1996, at all

commissaries. Customers were asked at random to fill out the survey while waiting to check out. The surveys were handed out at different times of the day to get a more accurate overall picture.

The stores gave out 40,130 surveys and nearly 36,000 were returned. "The return rate was excellent—about 90 percent," said Reade.

"Most military shoppers ranked courteous and helpful employees at the top of the list along with cost savings and value of the benefit," said Reade.

New PREVENT 2000 course made available by BUPERS

The Bureau of Naval Personnel (BUPERS) recently announced the availability of a new three-day "Personal Responsibility and Values Education Training (PREVENT) 2000" course.

This revised course, offered at 18 sites Navy-wide and designed for 18-26 year old Sailors, addresses issues such as alcohol abuse and drug use prevention, interpersonal relations, health and readiness and financial responsibility. Navy core values and personal responsibility are the heart of this course, which helps Sailors develop improved communication and interpersonal skills, as well as planning and decision making capability.

The course is a key component of the Navy's "Right Spirit" Alcohol Abuse Prevention Campaign. The goals of "Right Spirit," launched in 1996 by Secretary of the Navy John H. Dalton, are

to enhance fleet readiness by reducing alcohol abuse and related incidents, to maintain a safe and productive working environment, and to ensure quality of life for Navy members, shipmates, their families and the communities where they live.

"I strongly encourage commands to use this valuable tool to help your personnel in this age group understand their personal responsibilities as well as

expand their understanding of our Navy's core values," said VADM Daniel T. Oliver, Chief of Naval Personnel.

For enrollment, quota procedures, course site locations or additional course information, commands should contact LCDR Ann Vertel or Mr. John Schultz, PREVENT Program Office, Drug and Alcohol Program Management Activity (DAPMA) at (619)524-8105/8121 (DSN 524).

THIS WEEK IN NAVY HISTORY

April 18, 1942 — U.S. Navy bombers flying from the aircraft carrier USS Hornet, make the first air attack on Tokyo. The aircraft then fly on to China.

SUBLANT names 1996 Sailors of the Year

NORFOLK(NWSA)—Commander, Submarine Force U.S. Atlantic Fleet (SUBLANT) recently named the SUBLANT 1996 Sea and Shore Sailors of the Year (SOY).

VADM Richard W. Mies said picking 1996's SOYs was extremely difficult, but Machinist's Mate 1st Class(SS) Brawns Johnson III and Navy Counselor 1st Class (SW) Kenneth N. Gage Jr. both "symbolize the excellence of the submarine force."

Johnson, the Sea SOY, is assigned to

USS *Memphis* (SSN 691), as the auxiliary division leading petty officer. The Miami native has been in the sea service since November 1983, and says his past shortfalls keep him focused on the future. "Failures have made me successful," he explains about his past. "I don't want to fail again, so I use lessons learned everyday; I always want to go forward and never backward," explained Johnson.

Gage, the SUBLANT shore winner, is a drug and alcohol counselor at Naval

Medical Clinic Kings Bay, Ga.

The Seale, Ala., native says that groundwork laid by his parents more than 30 years ago has guided his course throughout his Navy career. "They taught me to do the job to the best of my ability and to take care of the little things. If you do that, big ones will take care of themselves," he said.

Both Sailors will travel to Jacksonville, Fla., April 20 to 25 to compete in the Atlantic Fleet's Sea and Shore Sailor of the Year competitions.

SURFPAC selects 1996 Sea Sailor of the Year

by JO2 Robert W. Garnand, SURFPAC Public Affairs

SAN DIEGO (NWSA)—Commander, Naval Surface Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet announced Quartermaster 1st Class George J. Ezell, from the San Diego-based USS *Merrill* (DD 976), as its Sea Sailor of the Year for 1997.

"We say he's the number one guy onboard and now that's confirmed by his selection as the SURFPAC Sea Sailor of

the Year," said Master Chief Hull Technician Balys B. Baranauskas III. Baranauskas, Merrill's Command Master Chief, went on to say Ezell has been the "Number one First Class on the ship for the last two years. He's a quality Sailor and a top performer. He's a chief in dungarees."

Ezell is the assistant navigator and leading petty officer of the Navigation and Administration Division.

Ezell says his secret for success in the Navy is hard work and teamwork. "I take pride in what I do and I'm committed to what I do," he said.

In addition to hard work and teamwork Ezell also credits the Sailors he's worked with in the past. "I did not reinvent the wheel," he commented, "I just applied what others taught me and I use that to lead and help my guys."

USS *Cormorant* commissioned

WASHINGTON (NWSA)—The Osprey-class Coastal Mine Hunter *Cormorant* (MHC 57) was commissioned April 12 at Harbor Island, Tampa, Fla. *Cormorant* has a crew of five officers and 46 enlisted, and is homeported in Ingleside, Texas.

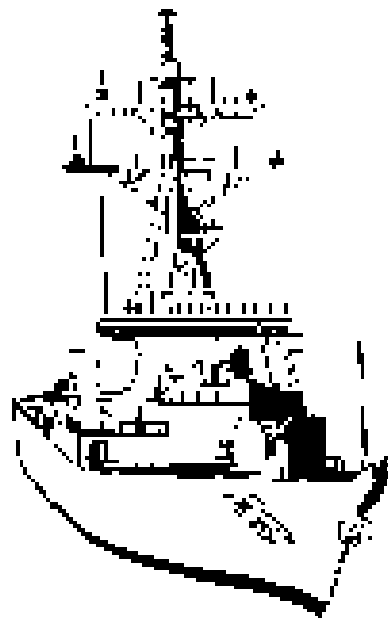
Cormorant is the seventh of 12 Osprey-class ships to be built. Ships of this class are the world's largest mine hunters constructed entirely of fiberglass. This ship is capable of performing reconnaissance, classification and neutralization of moored and bottom mines in coastal. This ship has a high definition, variable depth sonar and a remotely-operated, robotic submarine used to neutralize mines.

Coastal mine hunters are named after North American birds. Two previous ships have been named *Cormorant*. The first, a minesweeper (AM 40 and later ATO 133), served from 1919-1946, participated in the sweeping of the North

Sea mine barrage and earned one battle star for World War II service. The

second — also a minesweeper (AMS 122) — served from 1953 to 1970.

USS *McFaul* christened



WASHINGTON (NWSA) — The Navy's newest Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer was christened April 12 at Ingalls Shipbuilding, Pascagoula, Miss.

The ship is named in honor of Chief Engineman Donald L. McFaul, U.S. Navy (1957-1989), a native of Orange County, Calif. McFaul gave his life for his comrades and was posthumously awarded the Navy Cross for service with Seal Team 4 during Operation *Just Cause* in Panama, which drove dictator Manuel Noriega from power.

McFaul has a crew of 21 officers and 322 enlisted. It will be homeported in Norfolk following commissioning in 1998.

All of Pacific comes under TRICARE

by Douglas J. Gillert, American Forces Press Service

HONOLULU, Hawaii (NWSA) — What began as TRICARE Hawaii, DOD's managed health plan for the 50th state, now delivers medical coverage to service members and their families throughout the Pacific theater.

"It's not easy to link more than a

quarter million beneficiaries scattered throughout this vast area of the world to a single health care plan," said a TRICARE official.

"But they've been up to the challenge," according to Army Brig. Gen. Warren Todd, TRICARE Pacific's lead agent.

"For Hawaii, alone, we lead the na-

tion in TRICARE Prime (the plan's health maintenance option) enrollment," Todd said. More than 48,000 active duty service members are enrolled automatically, he noted, but in addition, 40,000 family members have also signed up.

"Not only have these people enrolled in TRICARE, but they're finding access to medical care easier than before," Todd said.

Military strength figures summarized by DOD

WASHINGTON (NWSA) — The total numerical strength of the Armed Forces on Feb. 28, 1997, was 1,450,349, a decrease of 7,064 from Jan. 31, 1997, and a decrease of 48,126 from the same time in 1996.

The figures represent full-time military personnel, both regular and reserves on active duty and officer candidates, including cadets at the three military academies. They do not include Selected Reserve strength ordered to active duty by the President under Title 10, United States Code 12304.

Excluded from these figures are approximately 65,000 full-time military personnel who are paid from other than active-duty military personnel appropriations. This group is funded from appropriations for reserve components and Corps of Engineers civil functions. A comparable figure for FY96 was also 65,000 military personnel.

February 1997 strength figures for each service with month-ago and year-ago figures for comparison are:

	02/28/97 (Actual)	01/31/97 (Actual)	Change from Prev. Month		02/29/97
			Amount	Percent	
Total	1,450,341	1,457,413	-7,064	-0.48%	1,498,475
Navy	407,758	410,762	-3,004	-0.73%	430,053
Army	485,674	488,316	-2,642	-0.54%	500,582
Marines	173,432	174,245	-813	-0.47%	174,187
AF	383,485	384,090	-605	-0.16%	394,653

ONR opens whale watcher Internet homepage

courtesy of Office of Naval Research Public Affairs

WASHINGTON (NWSA) — The Office of Naval Research (ONR) is applying technology used to detect and track submarines underwater to efforts to help the critically endangered Northern Right Whale.

Details of the project, along with video and audio files, are available on the world wide web at ONR's Home Page <<http://www.onr.navy.mil>>. Once connected, click on "What's New."

The National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) designated an area off the

Georgia and Florida coasts as a critical habitat, winter calving ground and nursery area for the migratory whales. Parts of the habitat coincide with shipping lanes for Mayport, Fla., a major Navy and civilian port, and offshore operating areas where Navy units conduct training exercises.

The Navy conducts monitoring flights and trains Sailors to spot and avoid Right Whales.



Navy medicine assists MSU

courtesy of the NTC Great Lakes Bulletin

GREAT LAKES, Ill (NNS) — Naval Hospital Great Lakes, Ill., mobilized its resources to help Michigan State University recently when the school discovered three cases of invasive meningococcal disease.

Only two hours after receiving a request for assistance from the university, the hospital had five trained corpsmen, seven jet injector guns and extra supplies of vaccine ready to go.

Great Lakes corpsmen spent four days in East Lansing giving vaccinations to thousands of students and training more than 100 nurses to use jet injector guns.

The call for help from the Navy came when Michigan State realized their health clinic would be overwhelmed by the task of quickly immunizing 18,000 students. They turned to Dr. John Downs, a professor of surgery and a Naval Reserve captain, because, as Downs said, "The Navy knows how to get things done."

Great Lakes is accustomed to mass immunizations, vaccinating more than 50,000 new recruits yearly.

USS Wadsworth deploys on CARAT '97

SAN DIEGO (NWSA) — The guided missile frigate USS *Wadsworth*, homeported at Naval Station San Diego, will deploy to Southeast Asia May 1 to participate in Cooperation Afloat Readiness (CARAT) '97.

CARAT is a 7th Fleet-sponsored series of bilateral exercises conducted throughout Southeast Asia. The exercise marks the third consecutive year these politically and diplomatically significant bilateral exercises have been conducted with navies and marines from Malaysia, Brunei, Thailand and Singapore.

CARAT '97 will be conducted in five unique phases, each tailored for underway training events with one of the host nations and U.S. Navy assets as participants. U.S. Navy ships participating in CARAT '97 will be forward deployed for approximately four and a half months.

Other ships participating in CARAT '97 include USS *McClusky* (FFG 41), homeported in San Diego; USS *Frederick* (LST 1184) and USS *Safeguard* (ARS 50), homeported in Pearl Harbor; and USCGC *Chase* (WHEC 718) homeported in San Pedro, Calif. USS *Frederick* will also have a Marine landing force embarked to train with host nation Marines.

In addition to the training at sea, *Wadsworth's* crew will conduct various inport training events and will participate in sports activities including golf, volleyball, soccer and basketball tournaments.

During CARAT '97, *Wadsworth's* crew will also be involved in community relations projects with the various host nations. The crew will deliver Project Handclasp foods and educational supplies to relief organizations and people in need around Southeast Asia.

NAVY-MARINE CORPS NEWS

Navy-Marine Corps News is a videotaped newscast generated for broadcast to Navy-Marine Corps fleet and shore units. The next Navy-Marine Corps News (program #701) includes the following stories:

USS Kearsarge deploys early to ensure

USS Nassau's coming home on time

FOCUS ON THE FLEET: CBS Evening News looks at the Navy's improved Recruit Training

Defense Advisory Committee on Women in the Services begins fact-finding visits

All Hands Magazine "Any Day in the Navy" photo shoot day set for May 8

Historic Midway Island turned over to Fish and Wildlife Service

Marine Corporal leads his gun crew during exercise Island Thunder in Italy

NEWS YOU CAN USE: Navy Medicine helps Sailors and Marines stop smoking

Navy/Marine Corps News on the road next week for USS The Sullivans commissioning

POSTCARD FROM THE FLEET: Deposits to Blood Bank in Japan helps save lives

MOVIE CALL: Val Kilmer and Elisabeth Shue star in "The Saint"

Sailor makes music aboard forward deployed USS Theodore Roosevelt

We need your input on Navy-Marine Corps News, so call our FEEDBACK LINE at (202) 433-6108 or DSN 288-6108 and leave a message or send us E-Mail at: nmcn@smtp.mediacen.navy.mil

If you have distribution questions contact Mr. John Morrissey at (202) 433-5844 or DSN 288-5844, or write him at the address mentioned below. All Navy-Marine Corps News tapes must be returned each week. Please use the enclosed return label.

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